

# CSTARS User Group Meeting

March 4, 2004

## Attendees

Crystal Davis, Pam Harper, Joe Lindsey, Jacqueline Wilson, Ed Negrelli, Sean Lam, Chris Nolte, Dao Vissering, Mike Williams, Kevin Crowley, Clark, Pat and Sandy, Heidi, John Abbott, Chuck Hughes, Sharon Driggins, Suja Madhavan, Clark Terrell, Judy Carnes, Pat Grimes, Sandy Febach, Jan Dodi, Jacob Nyquist, Dennis Morris, Marjie Dones, David, Heidi Sickles

## CSTARS Program Updates

- Getting ready to release 5.8a at NOAA; **ACTION:** Pam will send out an email to SAs to notify them when software will be available. **ACTION:** Pam will come up with a schedule.
  - Jackie wants Census to get release first.
  - Pam announced that it takes 8 hours to load a database. Tom said Gary Hill from CACI will research why it takes so long and will work to reduce this load time. Pam mentioned that it needs to be discussed when the production upgrades will take place; Can a production system be down for 8 hours? Pam needs a tester to ensure that the system looks complete.
  - Pam and John confirmed that AMD will be the only NOAA database.
- Tom announced that he will be replacing Kevin as coordinator of CSTARS releases.
- **ACTION:** Pam will send Tom the list of people that receive the release notes.
- **ACTION:** Kevin will describe how moving to the web product will impact the database configurations.
- Demo Update: NOAA wants to move forward with setting up the PPIRS database. Tom will be setting up a PPIRS demonstration. John reported that he will pursue working with CACI to establish a temporary holding place for performance data.
- Tom raised the issue of videoconferencing; John and Jackie stated that they like the way meetings are currently run. OS+ and NIST have no preference. Tom stated we'll continue with the current meeting format.

## CSTARS Host Site Cost Study

- Remote Access, Data Warehouse security, OCS Cost Evaluation
  - Remote Access: Begin looking at current policy for remote access and look at what it would take to implement remote access; DB, Citrix and Application layer security access. Remote access allows penetration of these layers. There are 20 requirements for remote access security. Could go through internet through controlled gateway or could go through bureaus and then through OCS. Recommendations for types of controls that should be implemented for user control and at OCS.



- Data Warehouse security: Policy says to look at information security requirements of data warehouse. Security plan operates within current guidelines.
  - OCS Cost Evaluation: BAH provided an initial cost estimate; IMMSG compared actual costs with cost estimates; IMMSG also compared other hosting provider to OCS; Actual costs were 36% lower than estimated costs. OCS costs have been decreasing each year due to a growing number of clients allowing OCS to distribute costs across more clients, lowering cost/client. IMMSG looked at hosting center at Bowie, but it was primarily collocation. IMMSG concluded that Bowie data center didn't have the necessary support; IMMSG then looked at the Springdale center but the infrastructure was not geared to mainframe storage support. IMMSG then looked at Sun Guard and Digex to provide services. OCS costs were lowest for CPU processing costs, but OCS was 26% lower than average of these other vendors. Learning curve for moving to another vendor would be another factor to consider. Recommendation was to stay the course.
- Kevin stated that reports are still being analyzed by management and will be distributed shortly.

## **Consolidating CSTARS Training DB**

### **CFS/CSTARS Interface**

- Proposals were received from Accenture who teamed with CACI. DOC produced a list of questions for Accenture and meetings were held to discuss the questions.
- Accenture has been asked to break down their T&M costs.
- Accenture has been asked to produce a list of requirements that they feel are unclear.
- Chris reported that there is some money for the interface effort, but not enough to get through the year.

### **Data Warehouse**

- CACI improved the performance due to the efforts of working with SAS.
- Pam reported that for disaster recovery OCS needs documentation on CACI tweeks. **ACTION:** Tom will follow up with Yancey.
- **ACTION:** Tom will ask Yancey how up-to-date the data in the data warehouse is.
- Redistribute DW test scripts

### **Disaster Recovery**

- Pam announced that the next disaster recovery test will happen March 22-23. Pam will coordinate with each office on special software that's needed. Pam



requested that questions/concerns be raised as soon as possible. **ACTION:** Kevin will let users know where he'll be in coordinating this effort for OAM.

- Sharon Driggins stated that printer not set up properly and hinders testing ability. **ACTION:** Sharon and Crystal Davis will send print driver name to Pam.

### **CACI Help Desk SA process**

SAs don't have to call program office; they can call help desk with issues. Tom is asking all users to call help desk by default, instead of calling CASD program office.

### **Simplified Acquisitions numbering process**

- Problem has been fixed with 5.8a release.

### **Accounting String Format**

- Printable CD435 form (outside of CSTARS) doesn't have enough spaces to hold accounting string. **ACTION:** Crystal will follow up with ChrisM.

### **Egov Initiatives**

#### **Comprizon.buy 5.8 Implementation**

- 5.8 installation is almost complete. Additional documentation remains an **ACTION** for CACI.
- Kevin waiting on update from OCS on whether they're done updating BPN tables for CCR.

### **FPDS-NG**

- OAM will fund \$1K training which pays for one class/bureau; Classes can be held at clients' sites. Bureaus will pay for hourly rate (classes are roughly 6 hours).
- Issue raised that CCR blocks that are not mandatory should be mandatory.
- FPDS-NG does not allow passing of field that users need populated. CACI stated CSTARS will only pass DUNS number. CACI then said that this would be a GCE item. **ACTION:** Gary will raise issue to GCE.
- FPDS-NG prevents users from passing data when they used to be able to pass it before.
- Awarded data is in system, but data sometimes can't be found. FDPS-NG help desk should hear about this kind of problem. Jan said that GCE stated that not all data had been loaded.
- Chuck reported the following regarding FPDS-NG: Actions were entered through CSTARS by opening original award to trigger interface to pop-up; user will get PIN number and enter 'DOC' in front of it. Chuck reported that this summary is in the FPDS-NG manual. **ACTION:** Chuck/Jan will work with Margie off-line to answer her FPDS-NG questions.

### **BPN/CCR**



- Physical address overwriting issue is fixed and will be delivered for next release. All vendors addressed will be updated.
- Fix implemented so operator doesn't have to keep hitting the Enter key to update vendors.
- Fix in 5.8a for printing **ACTION**: John and Jackie were asked by Tom to verify that this fix is in place.
- Mark reported that 5.8b is due in mid-April.
- Pam reported BPN upload process time is twice as long in production data base. OCS needs someone to test after upload. **ACTION**: SA's

### **CACI In-Progress Task Update**

- Gary provided an overview of the fixes that were provided in the 5.8a release. A description of these fixes can be found in the weekly CACI status report.

### **Poll on who is using FPDS-NG, CCR/BPN**

- Who is using FPDS-NG through CSTARS: OS+(No: FPDS-NG, CCR, BPN because business process and training needs to be done), NIST(No: FPDS-NG, CCR, BPN), Census(No: FPDS-NG, CCR, BPN; Training on 3/11 on FPDS-NG and they expect to use it afterward), Census/Jeffersonville (No: FPDS-NG, CCR, BPN because business process and training needs to be done, Jan (Yes, Yes), Margie (No, No), CASC (Yes, Yes), EASC (Yes, Yes), NDBC (No, No) **ACTION**: Dennis will send Pam request to delete ID for person who left DoC. PTO (No, No)

### **Commerce Day at CACI**

- Mark will provide a test drive of the web application. An entire day will be dedicated to this 'Commerce Day' at CACI.
- An overview of the data warehouse.
- CACI will also go over FPDS-NG, BPN/CCR.
- 25-30 people can be accommodated. Crystal stated that each bureau can send 5 people.

### **MISC**

- Dao is saying that people are getting inappropriate (i.e. CSTARS) information through acquisition list serve. DoC will need to revisit how minutes/agenda should be distributed. **ACTION**: Dao and Crystal will re-visit with Leslie, and Debra on how CSTARS information is distributed.
- John stated that the requisition module has not been rolled out although a few people have been trained on a pilot basis at their request. This has been done with their understanding that CSTARS may not be the front end for CSTARS. NOAA DPAs have been trained in CSTARS as a pilot for using CSTARS remotely. DPA's have all been trained and have been working almost a full year at most sites. Some refreshers are taking place with them now.



## **Bureau Comments**

- Census: Sharon asked if BPN table had been updated. Kevin said he believed BPN table was implemented. Daily extracts may not have been fully implemented.